

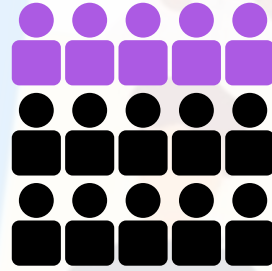
EARLY CHILDHOOD

VIRTUAL DIALOGUES SUMMARY





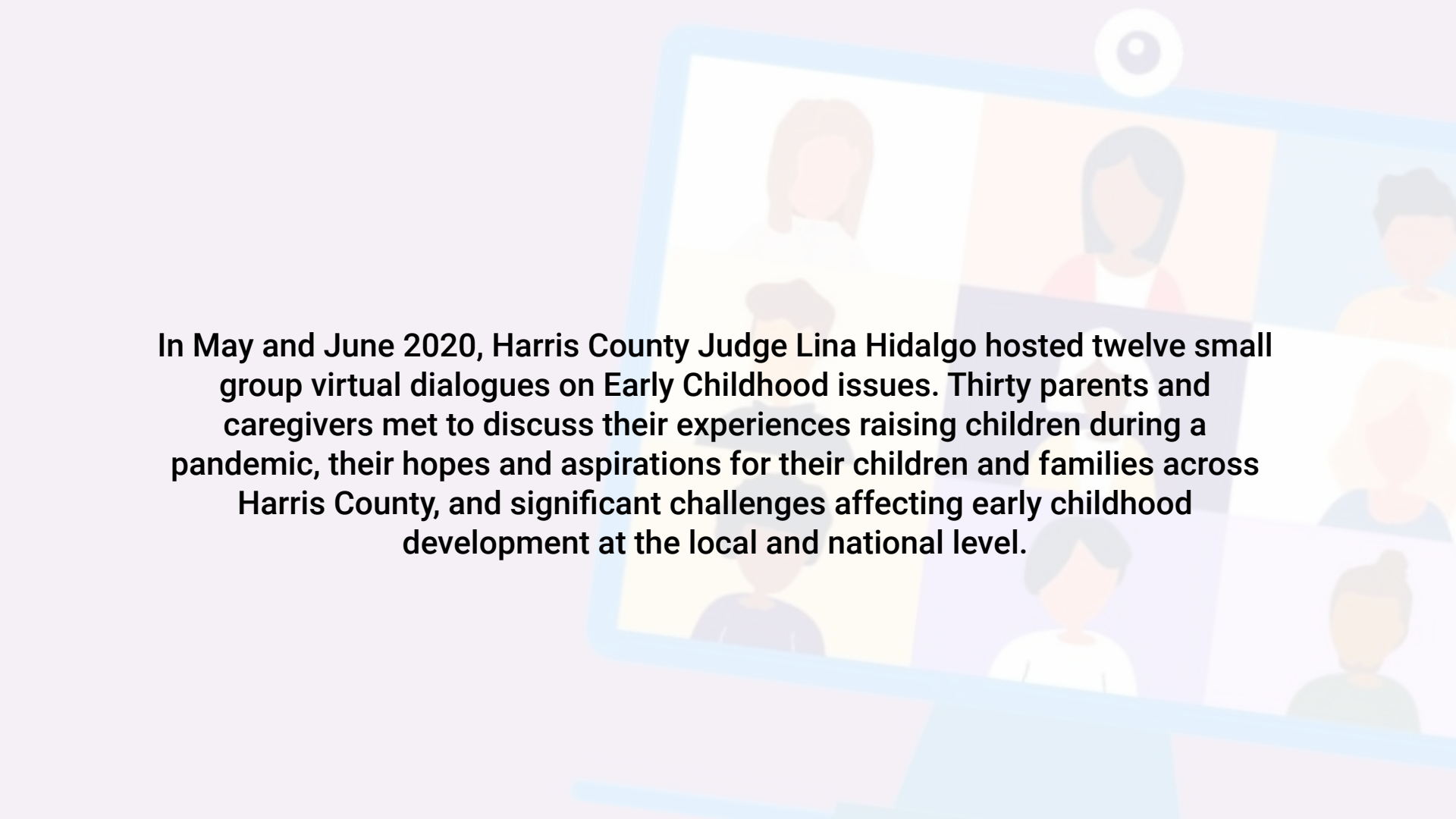
In May and June 2020,  
while families were staying home  
during the COVID-19 pandemic



30 participants joined 12 different  
small group virtual dialogues in 4  
different languages



Group discussions centered around  
parent support systems, needs, and  
fears

The background of the slide features a stylized illustration of a video conference window. The window is tilted and has a light blue border. Inside the window, there are several smaller, semi-transparent rectangular frames, each containing a simplified, faceless icon of a person with different hair colors and styles. A small, circular icon resembling a camera lens is positioned at the top center of the main window frame. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, using a soft color palette of pinks, blues, and purples.

**In May and June 2020, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo hosted twelve small group virtual dialogues on Early Childhood issues. Thirty parents and caregivers met to discuss their experiences raising children during a pandemic, their hopes and aspirations for their children and families across Harris County, and significant challenges affecting early childhood development at the local and national level.**



## The objectives were to:

1. Continue the Early Childhood Conversation Series
2. Have in-depth conversations and storytelling with parents and families across Harris County
3. Hear how parents are coping with COVID-19



## Participants discussed the following questions:

- Tell us about your parenting support system. Where do you go for knowledge, support, time-off, guidance? Who is in your support system?
- Tell us what you wish you had more of right now. Why?
- Tell us about a fear you have around parenting and your children's growth. How does that fear show up?
- What are you doing for education and development right now? Where/how did you find these resources? And what you could use more of?

# KEY THEMES

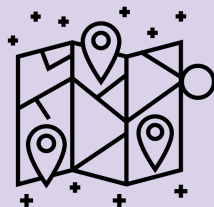
## THAT EMERGED



Many parents don't have a formalized and wide **support network**



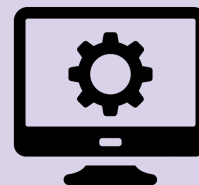
Parents need a **trusted and reliable bank of resources** about healthy development and milestones



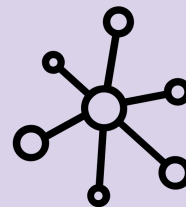
The social services landscape is **difficult to understand and navigate**, especially for those who are new to Harris County




**Time is a sacred commodity.** Parents wish they had more time for their kids and themselves.



**Workplace policies** that enable healthy parenting are important



Parents need **basic needs met**, including housing, food, and available childcare so that they can work



Feedback received in these sessions will be used to inform Early Childhood efforts across Harris County.

[HarrisCountyKids.com](https://www.harriscountykids.com)